SHRI KADAMBUR M.R. JANARTHANAM: I request the hon. Member, Mr. Fernandes, to support the Bill. We have not come here to scrap the Exim Bank but we have come for amendments to raise the level of exports and imports of the country. Therefore, I request the hon. Member to support the Bill. He is the only man who wanted to scrap it. I request him to support the Bill. Thank you.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): The question is:

> "That the Bill further to amend the Export-Import Bank of India Act, 1981, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clause 2 was added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI KADAMBUR M. R. JANARTHANAM: I move that the Bill be passed.

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE VICE-CHAIRMAN (SHRI T.N. CHATURVEDI): Thank you. Now, the House is adjourned for lunch till two o'clock.

> The House then adjourned for lunch at twenty-seven minutes past one of the clock.

The House reassembled after lunch at two minutes past two of the clock, Mr. Chairman *in the Chair.*

SUPPLEMENTARY DEMANDS FOR GRANTS (RAILWAYS), 1998-99

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): Sir, I beg to lay on the Table a statement (in English and Hindi) showing the Supplementary Demands for Grants (Railways) for the year 1998-99.

STATEMENT BY PRIME MINISTER AND DISCUSSION

Bilateral Talks with United States

THE PRIME MINISTER (SHRI ATAL BIHARI VAJPAYEE): Mr. Chairman, Sir, since the May 11 and 13 tests, the Government has, from time to time, taken the House into confidence and sought views of the Hon'ble Members. This was done through statements and discussions in the House on 27—29 May, 8 June and on 3-4 August. Nevertheless, I wish to reemphasise some salients of our policy.

I take this opportunity to reiterate that India's commitment to global nuclear disarmament remains undiluted. As Hon'ble Members are no doubt aware, India has consistently maintained that a nuclear-weapon-free world would enhance not only our security but the security of all nations. That is why numerous initiatives in this direction were taken during the last fifty years; such steps as would encourage decisive and irreversible measures for the attainment of this objective. Regrettably, the international community, particularly countries that have based their security on nuclear weapons or a nuclear umbrella, have been reluctant to embrace this objective. Keeping open our nuclear option, therefore, became a national security imperative three decades ago, an imperative equally valid for India in the post-Cold War period. The option that was exercised in May '98 was thus a continuation of a decision taken nearly 25 years earlier; during which period India had demonstrated an exemplary nuclear restraint, given the exceptional security related complexities of our region. I wish to place on record that successive governments continued to safeguared this option, demonstrate our capability and take such steps as were necessary to ensure the viability of the option through weaponisation.

Just as our conventional defense capability has been deployed in order to safeguard the territorial integrity and sovereignty of India against any use or